

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7049

By West

A RESOLUTION to commend and congratulate the participants of Team Liam in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Marathon.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly recognize those sporting events which bring together athletes of all levels in honorable competition, while highlighting the remarkable human spirit of the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such phenomenal sporting event is most assuredly the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Marathon, which is held in Memphis each December to raise money for the fight against childhood cancer and other catastrophic diseases; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Marathon, held on December 3, drew more than 6,000 competitors, including more than 1,500 full-marathon runners, almost 3,700 half-marathon runners, and over 800 5K runners, along with hundreds of volunteers and spectators; and

WHEREAS, for the competitors from Summit Medical Center in Nashville, being a part of the 2005 St. Jude Memphis Marathon was more than just a fun and exhilarating event; it was an opportunity to show their support of twelve-year-old Liam Hoover, who died from brain cancer on September 14, 2005, and who was the son of their colleague, Dr. Brad Hoover; and

WHEREAS, diagnosed in 2004 with a brain tumor, Liam underwent surgery to remove the tumor, then endured therapy and chemotherapy; he was considered to be cancer-free in March of 2005, but the cancer returned at the end of August, and the heroic boy died just two weeks later; and

WHEREAS, Liam's father, Dr. Brad Hoover, is an emergency room physician at Summit Medical Center; Dr. Hoover, his wife, Michelle, and their daughter, Aubrey, spent nine months traveling back and forth to St. Jude Hospital with Liam when he was undergoing treatment; and

WHEREAS, Liam Hoover had been aware that his parents were planning to participate in the St. Jude Memphis Marathon; after his death, Dr. and Mrs. Hoover decided to "make something positive out of the tragedy" by fulfilling their commitment to race and raise money to help other patients in the battle for the fight of their lives at St. Jude Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Liam Hoover's grave situation so deeply touched the lives of his father's colleagues that they were inspired to support Dr. Hoover by participating with him in the St. Jude Memphis Marathon; and

WHEREAS, "Team Liam" was formed by forty Summit Medical Center employees, some of whom had never participated in a marathon of any kind; in honor of Liam Hoover, they trained specifically for this event, packed up and traveled to Memphis for the race, and raised more than \$5,000 for the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Team Liam was extremely gratified to have such a large group running past St. Jude Hospital, which was an emotional moment for the Hoovers; many others at the race, some complete strangers to the Hoovers, were inspired and encouraged by Liam Hoover's story to keep running when they were exhausted and close to quitting; and

WHEREAS, while St. Jude Hospital clearly benefited financially from their efforts in the Memphis marathon, Summit Medical Center's Team Liam received lasting inspiration from the courage and strength exhibited by Liam Hoover and his family during a time of tragedy; and

WHEREAS, in finishing the race, Team Liam and Liam Hoover's family were able to join together to honor the memory of this beautiful twelve-year-old boy; undoubtedly, the gift of both physical and emotional support from Team Liam will comfort and sustain the Hoover family as they travel the difficult path of healing from their tragic and unspeakable loss; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to pay tribute to the resiliency, courage, and endurance of Liam Hoover, his family, and the participants of Team Liam, for their inspiring actions in the face of family tragedy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby salute the members of Team Liam, recognize their hard work
and persistence, and commend them on their extraordinarily beautiful and heartfelt gesture of
support for a beloved member of their own Summit Medical Center family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences
to the family and many friends of young Liam Hoover.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.